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INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR. 15 June 1952

SUBJECT Border Guard Patrols
in the Svilengrad Area

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1. The Bulgarian Border Guard personnel is broken down into stationary guard units and roving patrols. The stationary units are divided into day and night units and operate in four-hour watches from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Night units operate in four-hour overlapping watches from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
2. Stationary guards are armed with a rifle and 70 rounds of ammunition and an automatic rocket-firing signal apparatus with 10 signal rockets; each 2-man team also has a pair of field glasses. Night patrols have rocket signal apparatus with 10 signal rockets and are armed with rifles. The senior member of the night patrol carries an automatic pistol and 300 rounds of ammunition.
3. Daytime stationary units consist of 2-man teams stationed at high points, either natural elevations or strategically-placed steel towers, which allow an unobstructed view of the immediate vicinity, particularly the area up to the border line. Usually, one of the members of the team is stationed in the lookout tower with the field glasses while the other member stays at the base of the tower and investigates any suspicious movements noted by the lookout.
4. Nighttime stationary units do not use the observation posts of the day teams, but choose ambush points 350-400 meters inland from the border. Ambush points are located 1,000-1,500 meters apart and are changed at 4-5 day intervals. The overlapping watches operate on the following schedule in the area between the

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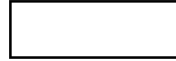
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villages of Chernodeb and Varnik, Svilengrad district:

- a. Three teams from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight;
 - b. Three teams from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
 - c. Three teams from 12:00 midnight to 4:00 a.m.; and
 - d. Three teams from 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
5. Roving patrols connect both the daytime observation posts and the nighttime ambush positions. During the day, roving patrols of two men operate on 4-hour watches. During the night, the patrols vary from two to six men depending upon the nature of the terrain. Each patrol covers the area between two stationary positions.
6. A two-part password is being used, consisting of the challenge, "Parola Stoyi" (Halt and give the password!) and the answer, "Sliven Sunka." The preceding password remains the same from day to day and special daily passwords which are changed every night are required. Guards attempt to capture any person not knowing both passwords and immediately open fire if the capture attempt is unsuccessful.
7. Border guard discipline is very strict as a result of constant checks by both the non-commissioned officers and the officers. Soldiers found sleeping on duty are subject to prison terms of 1-10 years and deserters face a prison term of from 10 months to three years.

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